

Getting to know you...

Where is the CHARLENE LARSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS? Who are the Partner Groups? What is the group called the Partners for the PAC?

588 16th Street, on the corner of 16th and Franklin, Astoria OR 97103 • info@partnersforthePAC.org • partnersforthePAC.org • 503-338-9132



AA A Way of Life Alcoholics Anonymous

Sundays 7:30 pm at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts, Astoria
We are members of the community, visitors from outside the area, parents, children, friends and neighbors who found that we could no longer control our drinking. Through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous we have found a solution to our problem.

We come together each week to share our experience, strength and hope with each other, choosing a new Way of Life, free from drugs and alcohol.

All who feel that they may have a problem in their lives with addiction are welcome. We do recover!

Astoria Music Festival Apprentice Artist Program Submitted by Deac Guidi • astoriaapprenticeartist@gmail.com

The Astoria Music Festival began in 2003 as an apprentice artist program and under the vision of Maestro Keith Clark, it quickly became one of the most exciting music festivals in the Northwest offering opera, symphony, and chamber music in beautiful, local settings. Over the years we have entertained thousands of audience members and seen some of the greatest talent classical music has to offer grace the stage of the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts as well as our own Liberty Theater in addition to local churches, homes and breweries. We are eager to return to the stage and have already begun thinking about the Astoria Music Festival Apprentice Artist Program under the direction of Dr. Mark Ross Clark with assistance from Dr. Claire Hudkins. Plans are forming to present June 11-27 of 2021. The program includes chamber operas Rita by Gaetano Donizetti and Kurt Weill's Mahogany in addition to a main stage production of Verdi's masterpiece Falstaff. Astoria Music Festival fan favorite Allan Glassman will join us again as a primary vocal coach as well as singers from across the United States. There will be free concerts, open master classes and an opportunity to get to know some of the finest young singers in the



country. We look forward to seeing you next summer and are thrilled to be more fully integrated with our partnership with the other Partners for the PAC and look forward to offering a concerted effort to continue to bring the performing arts to Astoria and the entire North Coast and Southwest Washington.

Cascadia Chamber Opera

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Submitted by Bernie Robe

Cascadia Chamber Opera (CCO) is a nonprofit opera company based in Astoria, OR, and dedicated to engaging Oregon communities through the vibrant musical storytelling of opera.

From its beginning in 2009 until today, CCO's 3-pronged mission remains the same: 1) to bring quality opera, in English and at affordable pricing, to new and established audiences in the Oregon/Washington Cascades area; 2) to provide an artistic performance vehicle for local Pacific Northwest singers, instrumentalists, and technicians; 3) to present an up-close and personal experience for audiences via smaller or non-traditional opera venues.

We began as Cascadia Concert Opera in Eugene as an experiment to test the reception and potential of the mission to provide affordable, accessible opera to the community. We perform light, usually comic, operas like Puccini's Gianni Schicchi, Mozart's Così fan tut Così fan tutte, and Strauss' Die Fledermaus. In 2018, the company was finally able to produce its own commissioned work, Tango of the White Gardenia, written expressly for the company by an Oregon composer, Ethan Gans-Morse. The new opera featured tango dance, with tango orchestra as well as some of the region's principal singers.

Astorians and the surrounding communities have long been supporters of classical music and opera as evidenced by the support of the Astoria Music Festival. The Festival carried CCO's co-founder and executive director Bereniece Jones-Centeno and her husband and music director Vincent to Astoria in 2016, and in 2018 Astoria became CCO's new home. Now, as one of the Partners for the PAC (dba the Charlene Larsen Center for Performing Arts), CCO is firmly one of the community's performing arts organizations. That same year, we changed our name to Cascadia Chamber Opera to better reflect our expanding performance formats while still acknowledging our preference for smaller, more intimate venues.

Our inaugural season as a PAC Partner concluded in 2019 with concert performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta H.M.S. Pinafore. Singers from Cascadia Chamber Opera and their invited guests, the North Coast Choral, were all on board. The performances featured Astoria's own ChrisLynn Taylor, Deac Guidi, Will Caplinger, Bob Goldberg, and members of the North Coast Choral. We performed Pinafore in Astoria and Lincoln City. In Eugene, Bend and Monmouth, we performed a "Gilbert and Sullivan Celebration," a concert of highlights from the many great Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

When our 2020 season was cancelled due to the pandemic, we started



looking for ways to stay active while we planned for 2021. In September we were able to sponsor the opera The Banshee by Oregon composer Daniel Daly, directed by one of our CCO accompanists, Andrew Pham in Eugene. It was performed outdoors with COVID-safe distancing on stage and in the audience. Singers Sarah Brauer, Alison Kaufmann, and Dylan Bunten, and dancer Amanda Hooper-Moore joined Mr. Pham for the performance.

Pandemic permitting, 2021 will be a very busy year for us. Not only do we hope to bring a production of The Banshee to Astoria, but we will pick up where we left off with a company favorite, The Old Maid and the Thief by Gian Carlo Menotti. It will be fully-staged at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts and in Eugene, featuring Astorian artists ChrisLynn Taylor, Ann Bronson, Elias Hess, Bereniece Jones-Centeno, Paul Brady, and Vincent Centeno. This casting is purposeful, engaging the home community, and following our mission. This comic work is less than 60 minutes long and in English, of course. In the late summer/early fall, we plan to present semi-staged concert performances of Don Pasquale by Gaetano Donizetti, and a chamber orchestra. In English, it will feature artists from the Pacific Northwest. Finally, the "Gilbert and Sullivan Celebration" will continue with stops at senior living centers in Eugene, Astoria, and Salem, among other places.

KMUN Coast Community Radio

Submitted by Susan Peterson • info@coastradio.org

KMUN first signed on the air on April 17, 1983, from a small studio on the second floor of the Gunderson Building, on Commercial Street in the heart of downtown Astoria. The ground floor was occupied by Mode-O-Day fashions and the Beauty College.

A few years later, KMUN was gifted its very own home by the generosity of Salvatore Sebastian Patti and family. After much hard work and construction, the former Trullinger House (which had a history of a bordello, an apartment house and a dental office) was turned into broadcasting studios and offices. KMUN began operating from the newly named Tillicum House (Tillicum means "people," or "friend" in Chinook), just above the edge of downtown Astoria, in 1987. It is a lovely Queen Anne Victorian with views of Astoria and the river from the air room and lobby.

KMUN broadcasts 5,000 watts of power at 91.9 MHz from its main transmitter on Megler Mountain (straight up the hill from the Washington side of the Astoria-Megler Bridge), 10 watts at 89.5 MHz from translators located in Cannon Beach and 104.3 MHz in Wheeler, and 10 watts at 91.3 MHz from a translator serving South Astoria.

KMUN's Board of Directors is made up of nine people who serve a two year term. Currently the Board includes Jack Harris (Pres), Jennifer Crockett (Sec), John Stevenson (Treas), Larry Scott, David Campiche, Josh Marquis, Victoria Stoppelli and Sarah Lu Heath. Members elect the Board each November, where winners are announced at the annual meeting. This year it will be a virtual meeting instead of the delicious breakfast followed by the volunteer awards and announcements.

When you listen to KMUN, most likely you are hearing a volunteer programmer. Over 100 devoted volunteers bring you local news, local public affairs, stories, interviews, history and music. And lots of music that you will not hear on other stations. Tune in and try to identify your friends and neighbors from our five county listening area.

If you could walk into the Tillicum House, although you can't now because of Covid-19, you would be greeted by a volunteer. There are volunteers who work in our digital as well as physical music library. And Board members are volunteers too. Community radio and KMUN fulfills

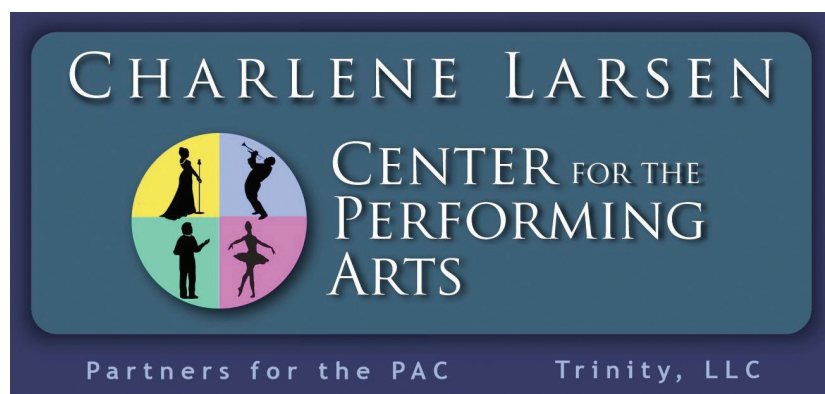


it's mission by the power of volunteerism and we have some of the most powerful volunteers in the area! We look forward to reopening and inviting more into the fold

Funding for KMUN comes in part from a grant from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB), community grants, memberships and business sponsors. It's not just Big Bird and NPR which are affected by threatened budget cuts in federal funding. KMUN's yearly CPB funding is one third of KMUN's fiscal budget. Memberships and business sponsoring of air spots, ads in The Current (KMUN's quarterly newsletter) and events, make up half of KMUN's funding with regional grants filling in the balance.

Tune in, sit back and enjoy your local radio station at 91.9fm and CoastRadio.org

The Tillicum Foundation (dba as KMUN) mission is to serve the Lower Columbia Pacific Region through commercial-free community radio programs and services that enrich life by illuminating the role of the arts, promoting cultural and educational growth, and bringing focus to current issues of local and regional public interest while providing a forum for diverse and under served groups.



PARTNERS FOR THE PAC

On June 29, 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partners for the PAC, Trinity LLC, and Clatsop Community College came together to celebrate the transfer of ownership of the now-named Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts (formerly, the PAC). Clatsop Community College was the owner of the parcel of the two buildings and parking lot located at 560 and 588 16th Street in Astoria Oregon and on that Monday, the three groups had a little masked, socially-distanced celebration as President Chris Breitmeyer from the College congratulated Constance Waisanen of Trinity LLC for her new purchase, and Charlene Larsen, the Board President of the Partners for the PAC. Astorians had been waiting for a long time for this transition and the good news was a breath of fresh air.

Previously, the College had been the owner of the building, at first offering classes and some 30 years later, eventually leaving maintenance and programming to the partner groups that now make up what is known as the Partners for the PAC. After acquiring the buildings and the parking lot from Trinity Lutheran Church, in 1977, the College began to offer several classes and eventually a music and theater program was developed at the facility. Classes and lessons were taught there, which would often culminate with performances by the student population. Several of the music instructors for the College had developed small performance groups that included students and community members. The North Coast Symphonic Band (NCSB) and the North Coast Choral (NCC) both began during this time and they still rehearse and present concerts today at the venue as two of the founding members of the Partners for the PAC.

The new performing arts groups (NCSB and NCC) took on the responsibility of creating more use of the building by continuing to offer lessons, rehearsal space, and performances. This in turn led to more community awareness of and appreciation for the building and the potential for more local community activity.

The community of Astoria and its nearby towns had come to appreciate the building and its use by community performing arts groups and visiting artists. It became important for the performing arts groups to develop strategies that would enable the local musicians to continue using the facility and to support the region's growing community of retirees and young professionals who were moving to the area and seeking opportunities to convene and perform. Astoria is nearly two hours or more in all directions from many metropolitan areas and therefore the townspeople must create their own sources of recreation, cultural development, heritage expression and conservation. The College's parcel of buildings and parking have turned into a locus for such community development and have become home to eight groups that rely on all the spaces for rehearsals, meetings, classes, performances, and community building.

In 2013, the collection of groups that used the facility regularly, now known as the Partners for the PAC, came together to formalize a strategic plan that would include a look at the future usage of the building. It was critical to them to determine sustainability for the performing organizations at a time when the College was finding the property to be more of a burden. The groups began working with a technical assistance consultant who helped them determine several key factors

that would be important to the continued existence of the buildings and surrounding property and the groups housed there. A key question was brought forward: What would happen if the property ceased its function as a community meeting space and performance venue or ceased to exist altogether due to property development, particularly by an outside developer, one not sympathetic to the rural nature of the area, the performance groups, or the history of the building, its instruments, and its location?

- The current groups would have difficulty finding alternate venues and lose control of their schedule and would be "at the mercy of those with more money".
- The current groups would lose space for storage of instruments and libraries.
- Economies of scale such as shared chairs, lighting equipment, etc., would be lost.
- Community would lack an intimately scaled venue that is the right size for smaller community events, and a venue that enables audience participation.
- The current groups and local artists would be forced to perform out of town- which would drain the area of arts experiences and lessen revenue for local businesses with associated products and services.
- There would be loss of an historic building with stories of the region's population dating back to the 1940s.
- The historic Estey Opus 1492 Organ would be removed/destroyed.

This very important inquiry led to the forming of the Partners for the PAC (the Partners), a 501(c)(3) that became official in 2016, after filing Articles of Incorporation with the State of Oregon and receiving IRS federal income tax exemption. The Partners are the board of directors who represent the coalition of the eight organizations: the North Coast Symphonic Band (45 members), the North Coast Choral (53 members), the North Coast Big Band (22 members), the Cascadia Chamber Opera (6 members + artist roster of 28), A Way of Life (10 members), the Astoria Music Festival (6 members + artist roster of 46) Coast Community Radio (Troll Radio Hour with 6+ facilitators), and the North Oregon Coast Symphony (33 members).

The small celebration in June marked the accomplishment of a significant goal in the long-range strategic plan set by the Partners for the PAC in 2013. The transfer of ownership makes it possible for the partner organizations, the many skilled volunteers, and the community to go forward with continued planning of building use, maintenance, restoration, and refurbishment as well as organizational structure and fundraising strategies. The parcels are still in the hands of the local community. The Partners will all continue to have a space for their ensembles to rehearse and store their items. The people of Astoria and its neighbors can enjoy the intimate space of a 225-seat auditorium, classrooms, and meeting spaces, and a parking lot. Even though COVID-19 has had a strong impact, causing events, meetings, gatherings, and rehearsals all to be cancelled for a time, the timing has been strangely supportive, allowing the Partners to organize the next steps including hiring a part-time Executive Director in February.

This is an extraordinary moment in the life of the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts and the Partners for the PAC are poised to cultivate and restore this vibrant, sustainable, cultural venue for the region and for the state of Oregon.



NORTH COAST BIG BAND

Submitted by Lee Stromquist

Dr. John Banholzer and the late Dennis Thiel formed the North Coast Big Band in the 1970's. Mr. Thiel was the first leader of the band and Terry Hahn followed him. Currently, Lee Stromquist is the leader. All four leaders played trombone in the band. We are looking forward to beginning rehearsals early next year, and will work toward our annual concert to benefit the PAC. We are available for dances, weddings, concerts and celebrations. In 2021, we also expect to perform next Labor Day as a part of our annual celebrations in Clatskanie's city park, to benefit the Clatskanie Arts Commission. Members of the band include musicians from Clatsop County, Pacific County, Tillamook County, and includes many current and retired band directors, as well as successful working professional musicians. The NCBB is dedicated to preserving the rich history of music from the big band era, as well as current big band music. Inquiries should be made to Lee Stromquist at 503-861-1328.



NORTH COAST CHORALE

Submitted by Denise Reed • catorey47@comcast.net

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the North Coast Choral.

While we're sure singers are singing to themselves at home from time to time, the coronavirus pandemic has brought this community's sharing of artistic expression to a sudden halt.

All performers create something from nothing. Since music exists in time, then it is only music when it moves in time. Something vibrates and awakens the spiritual inside of the listener. It is a complex process that we all may have forgotten without live music over the last six months.

To put this sudden silence into perspective, here are some facts from the Choral's 29 years of music making:

- Sixteen performances of Handel's "Messiah", 14 with community instrumentalists as a benefit for local food banks raising over \$15,000
- Presenting at least 116 concerts requiring over 2,320 hours of rehearsal focusing on a wide diversity of subjects and themes
- Many concerts were accompanied by guest artists who were compensated by the chorale to the tune of approximately \$20,000
- Concerts by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir and two female choral groups from Portland Community College, with some as benefits for the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center

A memorable concert of Handel's "Messiah" at the Liberty Theatre fell on a night when snow and ice blanketed most of Astoria. All of the singers showed up. After the concert, Astorian Don Morden shared with me that his wife, Anne, put the chains on their car tires so they could drive on the hills.

The tenor soloist was unable to make the concert so yours truly sung the beginning recitative and aria. The audience was composed of maybe 30 people.

We performed Mendelssohn's "Elijah" the next time we were at the Liberty in 2008. There were over 60 singers and 28 instrumentalists. The auditorium was filled with over 400 attendees. Astoria's favorite Deac Guidi played Elijah. During our 20th anniversary in 2010, we presented a program of favorite music from the seven directors of the chorale.

Some of the notable music the chorale has sung over the years: performances with the Clatsop County Children's Chorus of Rutter's "Mass of the Children"; the Bach and Rutter "Magnificat"; Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols"; a bicenten-

NORTH COAST SYMPHONIC BAND

Submitted by Janet Bowler

The North Coast Symphonic Band is waiting patiently to be able to get together again with musicians and audience members. The band celebrated its 40th anniversary with two concerts in the fall of 2019 before the season was curtailed by the COVID-19 virus.

The North Coast Symphonic Band represents community music at its finest providing local musicians with an outlet for their talents and local audiences with affordable entertainment. A dedicated board of directors that includes four charter members governs the NCSB. Volunteer musicians come from the broader community and range in age from teens to eighties. The North Coast Symphonic Band continues to support Partners for the PAC during the lockdown by paying rent and individual band members have been volunteering their time and services to assist with landscaping and interior renovations.

The NCSB rehearses at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts and performs at the Liberty Theater in Astoria, Oregon. Concerts are on the calendar for the following dates but will only be performed when it is safe for musicians to gather for rehearsals and audiences to fill the auditorium.

- 2 PM, Sunday, April 25, 2021
- 7 PM, Saturday, July 3, 2021
- 2 PM, Sunday, November 7, 2021
- 2 PM, Sunday, February 6, 2022
- 2 PM, Sunday, April 24, 2022
- 7 PM, Sunday, July 3, 2022

The guest conductor for the April or November concert will be Seth Wollum, director of marching bands at Linfield College. The guest conductor for the July concert will be Brett Paschal, director of bands at Lewis and Clark College and sometimes percussionist with the eclectic Portland group 3 Leg Torso. A full-time conductor and musical director for the NCSB will be announced in 2021. John Hammond is assistant conductor.

The North Coast Symphonic Band has completed 40 years of providing quality music experiences for musicians and audiences. The band is composed of musicians of all ages from high school students to retired seniors and from

NORTH OREGON COAST SYMPHONY

Submitted by Robert Mushen and Cory Pederson

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The North Oregon Coast Symphony has been in existence since 2007, providing classical symphonic music to the northwest corner of Oregon and southwest Washington. Comprised of twenty-five seasoned musicians, the orchestra is capable of performing the most difficult, yet beautiful, compositions, bringing joy to youth and elderly audiences alike. We have presented at least thirty full-length concerts, ranging from Russian composers to lighter selections. Our mission is to preserve the heritage of classical music for future generations, and to introduce young people to the rich heritage that this genre has to offer. This group of musicians, whether they are called North Coast Chamber Orchestra or North Oregon Coast Symphony (NOCs), will go down in history as one of the best groups of its kind ever assembled, where the focus is on opportunity for youths and community building for lovers of ensemble work!

Nine years ago, Cory Pederson, the current conductor and music director came into the NOCS organization as the associate conductor, and within one year, he was hired as the new conductor of the orchestra. That first year, the organization began to take on a new identity. Just prior to Pederson's hiring, there were many behind the scene struggles that were taking place within the orchestra, and when the bottom fell-out, more than 75% or the orchestra members and board members did not return. This led to all sorts of intriguing concert programs, in which Pederson utilized multiple small ensemble features, as well as soloists and duets performing, before concluding each concert with the full ensemble playing a selection. Audiences knew that something had drastically changed with the orchestra, and therefore the ensemble struggled to obtain its new identity, when so many had come to know this group as a large full-sized symphony orchestra that played all classical music. Over the course of the following two years since the group had changed, the organization changed their name to the North Coast Chamber Orchestra. This new identity allowed the ensemble to market the group more specifically, and also changed the vision for this organization, still though...with a focus on performing local, live classical music. Fast-forward eight years later, and the NOCS ensem-



nial concert of folk music from the various nationalities that settled in Astoria; "The Voyage," a commissioned work by local composer Barbara Poulshock; "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace," by Karl Jenkins; "Songs of the Earth" music based on Native American poetry and prayers; a concert of spirituals and gospel, jazz, folk and holiday music of many cultures and customs; and many more individual selections of great choral music in many languages. We also presented two staged productions of Menotti's opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and the musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

The chorale has also performed with local ensembles like the Astoria Music Festival, Cascadia Chamber Opera and the North Coast Symphonic Band, sang at care and retirement centers and displayed art by local artists and college students at performances.

Throughout our 29 years we have had one singular goal: to touch the hearts of our audience with our music.

We urge you to be patient and wait for us to serenade you again with more music. Consider this an intermission. Our group may not look the same, but our desire to uplift you with our singing will be the same.

We truly appreciate your undying support for the past 29 years. We look ahead to the coming years of bringing more music to you.



all walks of life. There are music professionals in the group as well as students, teachers, a former principal, a contractor, businessman, and many retirees – all of whom have made music a life-long avocation.

Wind players encouraged the formation of the band in 1979 when it became increasingly difficult to recruit string members for an orchestra that had been meeting in Seaside. Dr. Art Vaughn was the original conductor of the North Coast Symphonic Band and Jim Smith guided the group for the next twenty-one years. Richard Boberg took over the baton for six years and was followed by Larry Johnson for another two. Dave Becker was the fifth conductor for the group and retired in 2019. Lee Stromquist and John Hammond have filled the role as assistant conductors.

The North Coast Symphonic Band is a mainstay for instrumental musicians in the entire North Coast area and many travel numerous miles every Monday evening to join the group for its rehearsals. The band provides a social outlet for musicians of all ages and an opportunity for musicians to network and be creative. Many sections of the band have waiting lists. Prospective members should contact personnel director Lee Stromquist at encore1@charter.net.

The band rehearses Monday evenings at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.NorthCoastSymphonic-Band.org, e-mail ncsband@charter.net or call 503-325-2431.



ble has been churning out amazing concerts after amazing concerts, and even just as important, the audiences came back. These were new audiences! New Venues! New community partnerships! The organization had developed an exciting new vision, and musicians began taking ownership of shared chamber ensemble work with the hardworking communities along the North Oregon Coast. Over the course of this transition, musicians began feeling more comfortable being isolated within their own parts. Musicians began listening to one another perform, and responded in kind when playing during rehearsals and concerts. The entire attitude towards this organization has completely changed from one of confusion (when the old program collapsed), to one of pride, community, sharing, and love for what is being done to foster great music. This has been an amazing journey for the members of the North Coast Chamber Orchestra, and a continued journey that undoubtedly has much more story to tell.